

Transportation Chapter Meeting Summary

Thursday, February 22, 2007 ▫ 4 - 6 PM

Central Corridor Resource Center ▫ 1080 University Avenue

Task Force members present: Jon Commers (Chair), Rob Barbosa, Kathi Donnelly-Cohen, Sherm Eagles, David Greene, Mary Jackson, Betsy Leach, Paul Savage, Alice Tibbetts, Dave Van Hattum

Staff: Christina Danico, Mike Klassen

Guest: Jim Bellus

Jon Commers gave a brief overview of the Comprehensive Plan update process and welcomed the task force members. Commers stated it was his intent to facilitate the group without the use of Robert's Rules, but that he reserved the right to use Robert's rules if necessary. After members introduced themselves, Commers introduced the guest speaker, St. Paul Planning Commissioner Jim Bellus.

Bellus presented a *A Lens for the Future: Saint Paul for the Next 25 Years*. Bellus highlighted ideas that would specifically impact the Transportation chapter, including the geographic mismatch of jobs and housing, population growth and increasing density, changing demographics and disparity, the rising cost of energy, and the combined affordability of housing and transportation. The task force had some of the following observations and questions on many topics relating to this presentation:

- Senior citizens – a rapidly growing portion of the city will have changing transportation needs.
- Is the ratio of those who live and those who work in the city comparable to other cities? (40% of St. Paul residents work outside the city.)
- A smaller tax base – St. Paul has many universities and a large amount of government-owned property.
- Should we focus on creating more service jobs or creating transportation systems to get people to existing service job centers in the suburbs?
- Transit service – gradual cuts over many years has resulted in a “slow death” of bus service in the urban core
- Changing budgets at the local and state level – finding creative alternatives to property tax increases
- Promoting regionalism – our perspective should include our economic and demographic place in the region.

Christina Danico outlined the Transportation section of the *Saint Paul Comprehensive Plan Scoping Report* (pages 24-26), highlighting the six major trends for the new chapter. The task force members brainstormed an additional list of items that they would like to see incorporated into these main issues:

- Union Depot as a the multi-modal center of Saint Paul's transportation system
- Cargo & deliveries – moving goods, building infrastructure, living in a “24-hour city”
- CPTED research – designing for public safety
- Citywide wireless and fiber optic networks as new systems related to transportation planning
- Parking
- Safe Routes to School
- Streetscape design and additional landscaping
- Cost/supply of fossil fuels and “peak oil” research and planning being done by other cities
- Public school system – coordinating and reducing transportation needs
- Equal accessibility to health facilities/vital services across all modes
- “The year-round city” – planning for the full range of weather conditions and situations
- Mobility – truly serving the aging population and residents with disabilities, not just complying with ADA standards

It was agreed that task force members would continue this brainstorming and report back on their specific interests at the next meeting. There was also a request from a task force member for staff to review the previous transportation chapter policies (Sec. 9.0) and present what was implemented, what was not, and why.

The task force agreed that the next scheduled meeting would be held Thursday, March 22, 2007, at the same time and place. Starting in April, the regular meeting day will be the second Tuesdays of the month.